



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

# Chairman's Newsletter

Number 31. July, 1986.

## POST-CONVENTION REPORT.

Yes, it was a success, perhaps the best ever. The setting -- Washington, D.C. -- was ideal (and what weather!); the hotel was a gem (and the price was right); the calendar of events all one could ask for; the turnout, 84 strong, a record-breaker; and, above all, camaraderie that overflowed.

Short of describing everything in detail, here are some of the highlights, along with a program that retraces each and every step. First off, it was a delight to have Michael and Diana Crawforth with us. They stayed a full two weeks, visited friends and historic places, enjoyed theatre and museums and "dining out," saw collections, took plenty of pictures and notes, and seemed to have the time of their lives.

Then there was the behind-the-scenes tour of the Smithsonian, a veritable storehouse of metrology exhibits and lore. (Thank you, Gene Mahoney, for arranging it.) The symposium was 100% attended, and speakers Michael Crawforth, Diana Crawforth, George Mallis and yours truly acquitted themselves honorably. Saturday night's reception and banquet was a gala affair, with no one wanting it to end. Friday night and Sunday morning shop and swap sessions saw scales, weights and money change hands, to the satisfaction of all who came to buy or sell. And the piece de resistance was the Sunday afternoon visit, complete with garden lunch, to the absolutely charming Betty and Frank Wright home in historic Alexandria.

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The home, a registered (and venerable) landmark, was a joy to see and a unique backdrop for the Wrights' collection of several hundred scales. (some of which turned your correspondent absolutely green with envy).

Yes, it was a smashing success, and we want to thank everyone who took the time to register their satisfaction. Here, to complete the report, are some convention addenda:

- \* In addition to the Crawforths, our overseas brethren were represented by Jan and Sigrid Wage of Borgenhout (Belgium) and Walter and Barbara Tschohl of Munich, the latter couple paying us a surprise Friday night visit.
- \* Jeff Storck, a scale collector/ISASC prospect before the convention, signed up on the spot and became a member in time to enjoy most of the goings-on.
- \* Our program showed Morris and Gloria Garber as being from Wakefield, Mass., whereas they're really from Riverside, California. Our apologies, folks.
- \* Apologies, also, to Riva-Jill and Stephen Ginsberg of Wakefield, Mass., and Marvin and Jan Miller of Waldorf, Maryland, who inadvertently were omitted from the program listing.

As to the financial side of the convention, we incurred a net cost of \$2,380, due, in the main, to some overseas travel expenses and the Sunday lunch which was not provided for in the registration fee. Each of your ISASC directors has been given a detailed income/expense summary.

GET READY TO CONVENE IN '87...

Flushed with the success of our '86 conclave, everyone heartily endorsed the idea of our next convention being in Southern California, most likely in early May. Member Jan Macho of La Canada, California, has agreed to be convention chairman, and members Mike Lauermann and Dale Goldman have volunteered to serve on his committee. The exact date and place have yet to be decided on, but it's not too early to mark your calendar and make tentative plans. More information will be forthcoming in the October mailing



... AND '88 AS WELL.

Whoever says we don't plan ahead doesn't know us very well. At that selfsame Washington meeting, Boston was proposed as the site for our '88 convention, and with everyone expressing interest, that city clearly seemed to be a popular choice. A convention isn't a convention without a chairperson, and consequently Riva-Jill Ginsberg stepped forward and volunteered for the post. So if you use a multi-year calendar, circle May of 1988 for Boston.

DIRECTORS NOW SEVEN STRONG.

Responding to the vote of the membership, our by-laws now call for seven directors, four from North America and three from Europe. At the Washington, D.C. convention, directors present, representing a majority, elected Jan Wage as ISASC's seventh director, thus filling the European vacancy. On page 906 of the current EQM, the full complement of directors is shown.

Jan is a long-standing and active ISASC member. A native Dutchman, he now lives in Belgium with his charming German wife Sigrid. Jan operates his own management consulting and training firm, and maintains two European offices. He's authored several professional books and audiovisuals which have been published in nine languages.

Jan's scale collection numbers more than 300, and runs the gamut in size and diversity. He's taken on the job as ISASC director with considerable enthusiasm, and sees his responsibility in part being to facilitate communication between European and Anglo-Saxon collectors. His credentials are ideal for this purpose, as Jan fluently speaks no less than seven languages. During the past several months he collaborated with Aime' Pommier in promoting and organizing the Paris convention held this past June. Welcome, Jan. We very much appreciate your willingness to serve.

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## MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS.

Having reported on Washington, D.C., along with California and Boston as future convention sites for the North American chapter, we'd be remiss if we didn't report on all that's happening with our European chapter.

First of all, there's the Paris convention, held in late June and from all advance reports, a resounding success. Our October Newsletter will carry news of it in more detail. Then there was the meeting of British collectors in Leicester on May 18, organized by member Bernard Goodwin, where 45 members, spouses and friends gathered, including several visitors from Holland. The meeting's theme was "Steelyards," and Michael Crawforth gave the talk on "Bisyards and Steelmars" we were privileged to hear in Washington, D.C. 14 stalls containing a huge variety of scales and weights -- some as exhibits, some for sale -- did a brisk business, and Mary Thomas sold £200 worth of ISASC publications. By popular accord, another such meeting will be held in May of 1987, with Bernard Goodwin again volunteering to run it.

And then there was the May 3 meeting of German scale and weight collectors in Cologne. 45 collectors, including a few from The Netherlands and Switzerland, attended with the express purpose of forming a German society. It was agreed that the group would meet twice during each year and would publish its own magazine in German. Whether it becomes a German chapter of ISASC or an independent society remains to be seen, but regardless, we wish them great success. We're for scale collectors coming together under any banner that proclaims their identity and purpose.

## A SEMI-ANNUAL REMINDER.

If your library doesn't include all issues of EQM, the EQM Index to facilitate your use of them, and binders to hold them, we can only suggest you remedy the error of your ways and place an order immediately. Moreover, there's ISASC's library of out-of-print books, catalogs, posters and historical documents that's worth a perusal and purchase. To make it easy for you, we've enclosed a current library listing with easy-to-order instructions. Now it's your move.



## MISTAKEN IDENTITY -- AGAIN.

Sometime back we related the incident of coming across a hotel lobby listing for "ISACS" and accepting it as a misspelling of our society's acronym. It turned out to stand for Independent Schools Association of the Central States, and our belief that we were regularly being publicized to the world at large suffered a minor setback. Would you believe it happened again, this time in Las Vegas where a group was convening under the banner of "ICSC?" Once again, we thought more recognition was coming our way, however garbled, only to learn that ICSC stood for International Council of Shopping Centers. Here's a sample of the literature we came across that we mistook for another stepping stone to fame.

## NEWS FROM "DOWN UNDER."

Ray Park and spouse Eileen of Noranda, Australia, regularly report on their worldwide scale collecting, and their latest missive tells us about more of the same.

In the Spring of 1987 they're planning a trip that will take in Asia, the U.S. and Canada, Europe (including England, France, Denmark, and Switzerland), and possibly London on their way home. Their itinerary includes the North American chapter convention in Southern California and the U.K. meeting in Leicester. The Park collection now numbers 700 scales and hundreds of weights, and if they do what they've done on previous trips, it probably will be close to 800 by the time they get home. At that point, they're planning to house the collection in a small building adjacent to their new home, which, in effect, will be a metrology museum. Which, to our way of thinking, is a good reason for the rest of us to plan a trip "down under."

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## Floor Plan Reference Guide

### ICSC Trade Exposition Directory

**MGM Grand Hotel**  
Goldwyn Pavillion

May 11-13, 1986  
Las Vegas, Nevada





## REFLECTIONS IN RHYME.

Here, as proof positive that many of our members harbor eloquent impressions about our hobby, is a poem by member Barrett Silverstein of Raleigh, North Carolina.

## ODE TO THE SCALE

A fish has SCALES upon its back.  
If my plant has SCALES, I'm taken aback.

I use a SCALE to measure points.  
I draw to SCALE to compare two joints.

I work for SCALE to support my wife.  
I sing a SCALE for the joy of life.

I use a SCALE to weigh my crop.  
The SCALES of Justice never stop.

I SCALE a rock to see it skip.  
I SCALE the mast aboard a ship.

So for the short and long term run of it,  
I collect those SCALES just for the fun of it.

## AT LAST ... A BIBLIOGRAPHY.

We thought the day would never come when we would have a definitive listing of the myriad books, pamphlets, articles, etc. on metrology, but that day finally seems to have arrived. Member Ellen Danforth, who serves as curator for the Streeter Collection of Weights and Measures at Yale University, is undertaking the compilation of a bibliography to be published under ISASC auspices. It's a big undertaking, to put it mildly, but Ellen is full of enthusiasm and well into the project.



However, she needs all the help she can get, and this is where our membership comes in. Ellen is asking every member to provide her with any and all information about material in their own library. Here's what she needs:

1. Author(s)
2. Title of article, book, pamphlet, document, journal, etc.
3. Place of publication
4. Name of publisher
5. Date of publication
6. Inclusive page numbers, if article or part of larger work
7. Other information such as document number, reprint information, etc., if applicable
8. Whether the source is an original copy, photocopied, mimeographed, an offprint, transcription, etc.
9. Library of ownership, if known.

Please take the time necessary to assist Ellen and send the information to: Ellen Danforth, Curator, Streeter Collection of Weights & Measures, Yale Medical Historical Library, SHM, 333 Cedar Street, New Haven, CT 06510.

AND IN CLOSING...

We thought you'd like to know that the state of health of the North American chapter has never been better. We're 206 members strong, with more joining the fold regularly.

We don't want to be premature on another note of interest to all, but if present plans materialize, you can look forward to the fall issue of EQM being something really quite special. On that cryptic note, we'll bid you adieu for the moment.

Fraternally,



